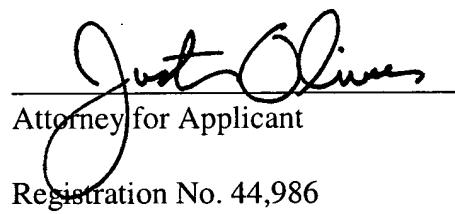


The changes are intended to define even more clearly Applicant's invention.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS**

7. (Amended) A diffraction optical element [wherein at least two] in which
a plurality of diffraction gratings [formed of at least two kinds of materials differing in
dispersion] are laminated, comprising: [at least two of said diffraction gratings are formed
on a curved surface and adjacent to each other, and the grating spacing between these two
adjacent diffraction gratings is equal over the range of use]

a first diffraction grating which is formed on a curved surface with a
material of a predetermined dispersion; and

a second diffraction grating which is formed on a curved surface with a
material of a dispersion different from that of the first diffraction grating and adjacent to
the first diffraction grating.

wherein the pitches of corresponding grating portions of the first and second
diffraction gratings are equal over the range of use.

8. (Amended) A diffraction optical element according to [any one of
Claims 1 to] Claim 7, wherein substrates on which said diffraction gratings are formed are
joined together in the non-grating area of each of said diffraction gratings.

9. (Amended) A diffraction optical element according to [any one of
Claims 1 to] Claim 7, wherein at least one of said laminated diffraction gratings has at least

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one diffraction grating differing from it in the direction of the grating shape of the grating portion.

10. (Amended) A diffraction optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to] Claim 7, wherein the wavelength area used is a visible range.

11. (Amended) A diffraction optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to] Claim 7, wherein at least one of said plurality of diffraction gratings is such that the material forming said diffraction gratings is the same as the material forming a substrate on which said diffraction gratings are provided.

13. (Amended) A diffraction optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to] Claim 7, which is formed on the cemented surface of a cemented lens.

14. (Amended) A diffraction optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to] Claim 7, wherein said plurality of diffraction gratings are laminated so that the diffraction efficiency of a particular order may heighten in the entire wavelength area used.

15. (Amended) An optical system using a diffraction optical element according to [any one of Claims 1 to] Claim 7.